

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/01555

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : H01L 21/331 US CL : 438/312, 309, 478, 343 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																	
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 438/312, 309, 478, 343, 493, 503, 933, 321, 349; 117/89, 93, 102; Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) USPAT; JPOABS; EPOABS; DERWENT																	
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 5698869 A (Yoshimi et al) 16 December 1997, all</td> <td>1-15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 6117750 A (Bensahel et al) 12 September 2000, all</td> <td>1-15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 6429098 B1, (Bensahel et al) 06 August 2002, all</td> <td>1-15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 6551889 B2, Kovacic 22 April 2003, all</td> <td>1-15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	A	US 5698869 A (Yoshimi et al) 16 December 1997, all	1-15	A	US 6117750 A (Bensahel et al) 12 September 2000, all	1-15	A	US 6429098 B1, (Bensahel et al) 06 August 2002, all	1-15	A	US 6551889 B2, Kovacic 22 April 2003, all	1-15
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<table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2"> * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td> "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family												
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer Carl W Whitehead, <i>James R. Mattheis</i> Telephone No. (571) 272-2800															